

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 18, 2020

Present: Bob Finnegan, Tom Tracey, Laura Rogers, Christine Edwards, Ken Parkes, Peter Fimognari, Chris Hillibrand, Jim Pennington, Kurt Kaiser, Maureen O'Sullivan, Brenda Payette (Administrative Assistant), Mary Lauria (Town Accountant), Evan Brassard (Town Administrator)

Absent: Bob Margerison

The meeting convened at 7:00pm via zoom remote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

BILLS TO PAY OR TO APPROPRIATE:

None

MEETINGS MEMBERS ATTENDED:

None

BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Town / Financial Updates

Mary sent an email with the 2021 revenue projection comparison broken into three different categories using FY20 state aid & less 10%, 20%, 30% UGGA state aid.

You can see these files in Clear Gov under FY21 master.

We are still in a short fall.

The town of Monson received \$781,000 from the government for FY2020 COVID expenses. The Town cannot use this money for revenue deficits. It was requested that Senator Warren take this back to Senate to see if those restrictions can be lifted.

State said BOS could vote to lower the quorum needed to hold Town Meeting on June 22, 2020. Mary and Evan said they are going to prepare two budgets in preparation for town meeting. In the event something happens and the town cannot hold town meeting, we will not have a budget by July 1 that is why the town has to have another budget prepared.

Warrants need to be posted by June 8, 2020.

Jim gave a suggestion about holding town meeting outdoors in a big space to accommodate a large amount of people.

Tom asked Evan if he was aware of anything on the warrants that would draw a large crowd of people. Evan said there is one warrant article pertaining to limiting the number of chickens on a parcel.

Budget planning: Evan said they are looking at different strategies in regards to the budget. Looking at the needs and the wants in the capital plan and assigning a priority to them.

Evan said they reduced some expenses related to dues and memberships. Most of what they have is for department's certifications and requirements for their jobs.

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Evan said the plan is to deliver a budget to FinCom that is about \$100,000-\$150,000 below projected revenue.

FinCom asked what happens to any budgeted money that has not been spent yet.

Evan said that whatever is not spent will close to free cash. He reminded FinCom about his memo he sent to departments about not spending so he is hopeful there would be some savings. He is talking with the school to see what they might have for saving and he is looking at any energy savings.

Evan said they met with union stewards last week about potential changes. They are looking at instead of not doing a COLA and Step raises, they will look at hour reductions so that when staff is able to return to full hours, they will not be looking at any salary reductions. This is a time consuming process but they are trying to think about this in a way that eliminates the need for layoffs. Evan and Mary are hopeful they will have a budget to present to FinCom in two weeks.

The school department was not able to present their department budget to the BOS last week. They are planning to present this week.

Town Elections are still being planned for June 9, 2020.

Next meeting scheduled will be June 1, 2020

Meeting ended at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda I. Payette

Administrative Assistant to the Finance Committee